

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS in New Hampshire



April 2000

Volume 100, Number 04

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The Impact of the Proposed Minimum Wage Legislation

Who will be affected by a \$1.00 increase?

According to the Current Population Survey, there were 644,000 New Hampshire residents employed in 1999. Of those employed, about 360,000 were paid by the hour. Approximately 10,000 (1.5 percent) of the total employed were paid less than \$5.15 the minimum wage, while about 2,000 (0.3 percent) were paid the minimum wage. The 1.5 percent earning less than \$5.15 includes waiters and waitress and other such occupations where tips are expected to supplement the hourly wage. Also included are some workers under age 16. The Fair Labor Standards Act allows a wage lower than \$5.15 in these categories.

There were about 27,000 (4.2 percent) workers in 1999 with hourly wages ranging from \$5.16 to \$6.14. Combining all categories under \$6.15 gives an estimate of 39,000, about 6 percent of total employment.

In New England, New Hampshire had the second lowest percentage of workers earning less than \$6.15 per hour. Connecticut, which has a legislated minimum wage of \$6.15, was lower. New England was 2.6 percentage points below the national average.

According to the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, just over 30 percent of the workers nationwide who earn \$6.15 or less are ages 16-19. Slightly over half of those earning \$6.15 or less are under the age of 25. In the 16-24 age group approximately 33 percent of men and 42 percent of women earn less than \$6.15.

Over 11 percent of the people who work part-time were paid at or below the current minimum wage compared to just over 2 percent of the full-time

Continued on page 2

Childcare 2000

The Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau recently mailed *Childcare 2000*, a survey exploring the relationship of childcare to business. The thrust of the survey is to uncover the way New Hampshire employers are responding to this increasingly high profile issue. About 6,700 firms in New Hampshire will receive the survey.

Governor Jeanne Shaheen endorsed the survey in a letter accompanying the instrument. In it she exhorted recipients to participate to "help inform our efforts to address an issue that increasingly affects your bottom line." If you are asked to respond, please take a few minutes to answer the 20 questions.

Published by the Economic and
Labor Market Information
Bureau

Employment
SECURITY

Minimum Wage Increase

continued from page 1

workers. The divisions with the largest proportions of minimum wage workers are Retail trade and Services. These

divisions include many of the jobs where the hourly wage is supplemented by tips and commissions. *Henry Goode*

Workers with Hourly Rates of \$6.15 or Less in 1999

	1999 Employment (Total)	1999 Employment (paid by the hour)	\$5.14 or less		\$5.15		\$5.16 to \$6.14		Total	
			number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Connecticut	1,638,000	819,000	21,000	1.3%	5,000	0.3%	57,000	3.5%	83,000	5.1%
New Hampshire	648,000	360,000	10,000	1.5%	2,000	0.3%	27,000	4.2%	39,000	6.0%
Massachusetts	3,173,000	1,683,000	50,000	1.6%	15,000	0.5%	146,000	4.6%	211,000	6.6%
Maine	644,000	380,000	7,000	1.1%	8,000	1.2%	37,000	5.7%	52,000	8.1%
Vermont	326,000	170,000	4,000	1.2%	1,000	0.3%	20,000	6.1%	25,000	7.7%
Rhode Island	483,000	278,000	10,000	2.1%	2,000	0.4%	35,000	7.2%	47,000	9.7%
New England	6,912,000	3,690,000	102,000	1.5%	33,000	0.5%	322,000	4.7%	457,000	6.6%
United States	133,488,000	72,306,000	2,137,000	1.6%	1,146,000	0.9%	8,947,000	6.7%	12,230,000	9.2%

1998 Annual Average Wage

New Hampshire's Annual Average Wage Increased 5.6 Percent in 1998

The Granite State's 1998 average annual wage for covered employment was \$30,943, up \$1,647 from 1997. The largest growth of average annual wage in New England was in Massachusetts, with a 5.8 percent increase. New Hampshire, for the second year in a row, had the next largest increase, 5.6 percent. Nationally, Massachusetts had the eighth highest percent increase, while New Hampshire tied Delaware for ninth. The nation's average annual wage gained \$1,555 to \$31,908, a 5.1 percent increase, while New England grew 5.4 percent to \$35,962. For the fourth consecutive year, New England's gain in average annual wage surpassed the nation's.

Nationally the highest average annual wage, \$48,727, was in Washington D.C. The highest state wage level in the nation for the second year in a row was in Connecticut. Massachusetts ranked third, with a wage of \$37,787. In 1997 New Jersey had the third highest average annual wage among the states. New Jersey's 1998 data is not yet available. The average annual wage in the four remaining New England states were below the national average of \$31,908.

The largest increase in New Hampshire was in Finance, insurance, and real estate (FIRE), 9.4 percent. The largest increases, nationally and regionally, were also in FIRE, both at 8.3 percent. This is the fourth consecutive year that this division had the highest growth nationally. Connecticut and Vermont were the only two New England states that did not have the highest divisional increase in FIRE. Both states had larger increases in Transportation, communication, and public utilities.

The second highest gain in New Hampshire was in Retail trade, with an increase of 6.6 percent. The smallest increase was in Government, with a gain of 2.0 percent. Wholesale trade had the highest wage, \$47,092, while Retail trade had the lowest average annual wage, \$16,391.

Gail Houston

Average Annual Wage for the New England States 1997 to 1998 Percent Change

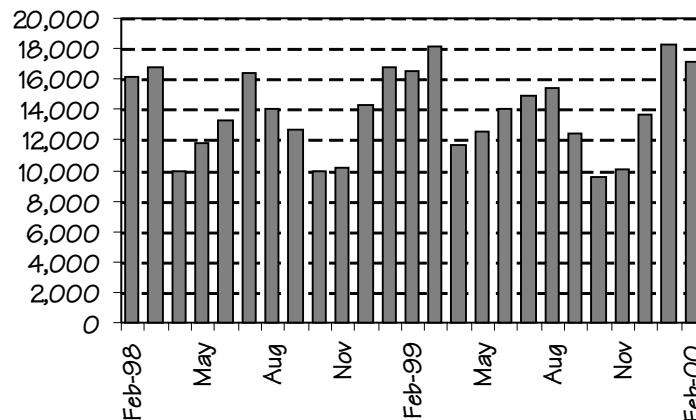
States	1997	1998	Net Change	Percent Change
New England	\$34,133	\$35,962	\$1,829	5.4%
Connecticut	38,941	40,915	1,974	5.1%
Maine	24,899	25,875	976	3.9%
Massachusetts	35,716	37,787	2,071	5.8%
New Hampshire	29,296	30,943	1,647	5.6%
Rhode Island	28,662	30,148	1,486	5.2%
Vermont	25,496	26,615	1,119	4.4%
United States	30,353	31,908	1,555	5.1%

Unemployment Compensation Claims Activity

Total Regular Unemployment Compensation Programs:	Feb-00	Jan-00	Feb-99	Change from Previous			
				Month		Year	
				Net	Percent	Net	Percent
Initial Claims	2,139	3,123	2,891	(984)	-31.5%	(752)	-26.0%
Continued Weeks	17,188	18,216	16,542	(1,028)	-5.6%	646	3.9%

**Claims
Activity****Unemployment Compensation Fund, February 2000**

Unemployment compensation fund balance at the end of February:	\$302,516,364.60
Average payment for a week of total unemployment:	\$221.65
Net benefits paid:	\$3,118,894.51
Net contributions received during the month:	\$2,478,244.98
Interest Received:	\$0.00

**Trust
Fund****Continued
Weeks Claimed**

Feb-98 through Feb-00

Continued weeks claimed remained above those from the previous year for the second consecutive month.

Feb-00	Jan-00	Feb-99	change from previous	
			Month	Year
169.7	168.7	164.5	0.6%	3.2%

United States
All Urban Areas (CPI-U)
(1982-1984=100)

**Consumer Price
Index**

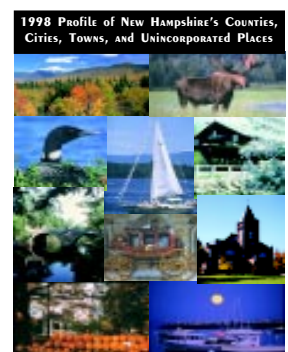
1998 County Profiles covering New Hampshire's Counties, Cities, Towns, and Places - Employment and Wage Data: 119 pages, March 2000.

This publication provides, for each of the major industry groups, the number of employers and employees, the average weekly wage, and total wages. It also lists month by month employment for each of the industries. A brief snapshot of each county contains land area, population (including that of the principal cities and towns), a physical description with historical background, a synopsis of the major industries, and trends. Manufacturing, nonmanufacturing, and government for each city, town, and

place in New Hampshire are detailed. A section titled "New Hampshire Trends in Covered Employment" looks at some major industry groups and discusses what has happened to them between 1994 and 1998.

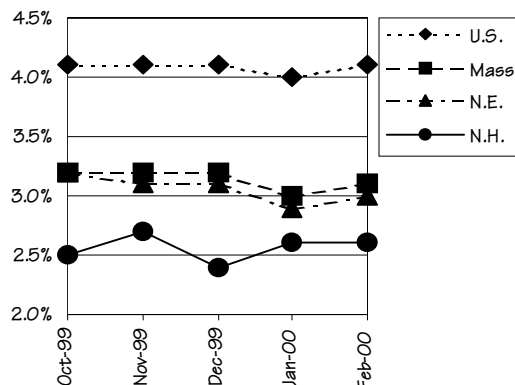
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32 South Main Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**1998 County
Profile
is released**

N.H. and U.S. Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate

New Hampshire again recorded the lowest unemployment rate in the region, as Connecticut jumped 0.6 percentage points over their February low.



Unemployment Rates by Region

	preliminary Feb-00	revised Jan-00	Feb-99
United States	4.1%	4.0%	4.4%
Northeast	4.0%	4.0%	4.5%
New England	3.0%	2.9%	3.3%
Connecticut	2.8%	2.2%	3.3%
Maine	3.4%	3.5%	4.2%
Massachusetts	3.1%	3.0%	3.1%
New Hampshire	2.6%	2.6%	3.1%
Rhode Island	3.8%	3.8%	4.3%
Vermont	2.8%	2.7%	3.3%
Mid Atlantic	4.4%	4.4%	4.9%
New Jersey	4.1%	3.9%	4.5%
New York	4.7%	4.9%	5.3%

Labor Force Estimates

by Place of Residence

New Hampshire	Oct-99	Nov-99	Dec-99	revised Jan-00	preliminary Feb-00
Unemployment Rate	2.5%	2.7%	2.4%	2.6%	2.6%
Civilian Labor Force	671,340	673,150	677,320	681,710	683,150
Number Employed	654,550	655,310	661,140	664,060	665,680
Number Unemployed	16,790	17,840	16,180	17,650	17,470
United States (in thousands)					
Unemployment Rate	4.1%	4.1%	4.1%	4.0%	4.1%
Civilian Labor Force	139,697	139,834	140,108	140,910	141,165
Number Employed	133,940	134,098	134,420	135,221	135,362
Number Unemployed	5,757	5,736	5,688	5,689	5,804

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

By Place of Establishment

Industry	Oct-99	Nov-99	Dec-99	revised Jan-00	preliminary Feb-00
TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES	596,800	600,800	610,700	614,300	612,000
Mining*	400	400	400	300	300
Construction	24,100	24,200	24,800	26,100	26,500
Manufacturing	106,000	106,200	106,200	105,700	105,100
Durable Goods	74,400	74,300	75,900	75,500	75,000
Nondurable Goods	31,600	31,900	30,300	30,200	30,100
Transportation and Public Utilities	21,900	21,700	21,600	21,400	21,900
Trade	156,100	157,000	161,200	163,700	162,400
Wholesale Trade	31,300	31,800	32,200	32,300	32,400
Retail Trade	124,800	125,200	129,000	131,400	130,000
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	31,900	31,700	33,100	32,600	32,800
Services	177,300	179,500	180,800	180,500	180,400
Government	79,100	80,100	82,600	84,000	82,600

* Since N.H. mining employment exhibits no clear seasonal pattern, these estimates are not adjusted.

Labor Force Estimates

New Hampshire	Feb-00	Jan-00	Feb-99
Number of Workers	preliminary	revised	
Total Civilian Labor Force	677,080	675,440	652,780
Employed	656,840	654,770	629,920
Unemployed	20,240	20,670	22,860
Unemployment Rate (% of labor force)	3.0%	3.1%	3.5%

Unemployment Rates by Area

	Feb-00	Jan-00	Feb-99
	preliminary	revised	

U.S. and Regional States

United States	4.4%	4.5%	4.7%
Northeast	4.5%	4.6%	5.0%
New England	3.5%	3.6%	3.9%
Connecticut	3.0%	2.7%	3.9%
Maine	4.6%	4.6%	5.4%
Massachusetts	3.4%	3.7%	3.5%
New Hampshire	3.0%	3.1%	3.5%
Rhode Island	4.9%	4.7%	5.5%
Vermont	3.7%	3.6%	4.4%
Mid Atlantic	4.9%	5.0%	5.4%
New Jersey	4.3%	4.4%	4.8%
New York	5.3%	5.5%	6.0%
Pennsylvania	4.7%	4.6%	5.0%

Labor Market Areas (NH Portions Only)

Berlin LMA	5.1%	5.0%	4.5%
Seabrook-South Hampton, NH			
Portion Boston MA-NH PMSA	7.5%	7.5%	8.5%
Claremont LMA	2.3%	2.6%	3.3%
Colebrook LMA	3.9%	4.5%	3.0%
Concord LMA	2.8%	2.7%	2.9%
Conway LMA	3.0%	2.9%	3.3%
NH Portion Hartford-Lebanon			
VT-NH LMA	1.3%	1.3%	1.4%
NH Portion Keene-Brattleboro			
NH-VT LMA	3.0%	3.1%	3.2%
Laconia LMA	2.9%	2.8%	3.2%
Lancaster LMA	5.2%	5.0%	5.7%
Salem-Derry, NH Portion Lawrence			
MA-NH PMSA	4.3%	4.3%	5.0%
Littleton LMA	2.7%	3.3%	3.5%
Pelham, NH Portion Lowell MA-NH			
PMSA	5.1%	5.7%	5.5%
Manchester LMA	2.7%	2.7%	3.1%
Nashua LMA	3.0%	3.0%	3.3%
Peterborough LMA	2.8%	2.9%	3.2%
Plymouth LMA	2.5%	2.7%	2.6%
NH Portion Portsmouth-Rochester,			
NH-ME PMSA	2.6%	2.7%	2.9%

Counties

Belknap	3.0%	3.0%	3.4%
Carroll	2.9%	3.0%	3.3%
Cheshire	3.1%	3.2%	3.3%
Coos	4.8%	5.0%	4.4%
Grafton	1.9%	2.1%	2.3%
Hillsborough	2.8%	2.9%	3.2%
Merrimack	2.7%	2.7%	2.8%
Rockingham	3.5%	3.6%	4.1%
Strafford	2.8%	2.9%	3.0%
Sullivan	2.4%	2.7%	3.3%

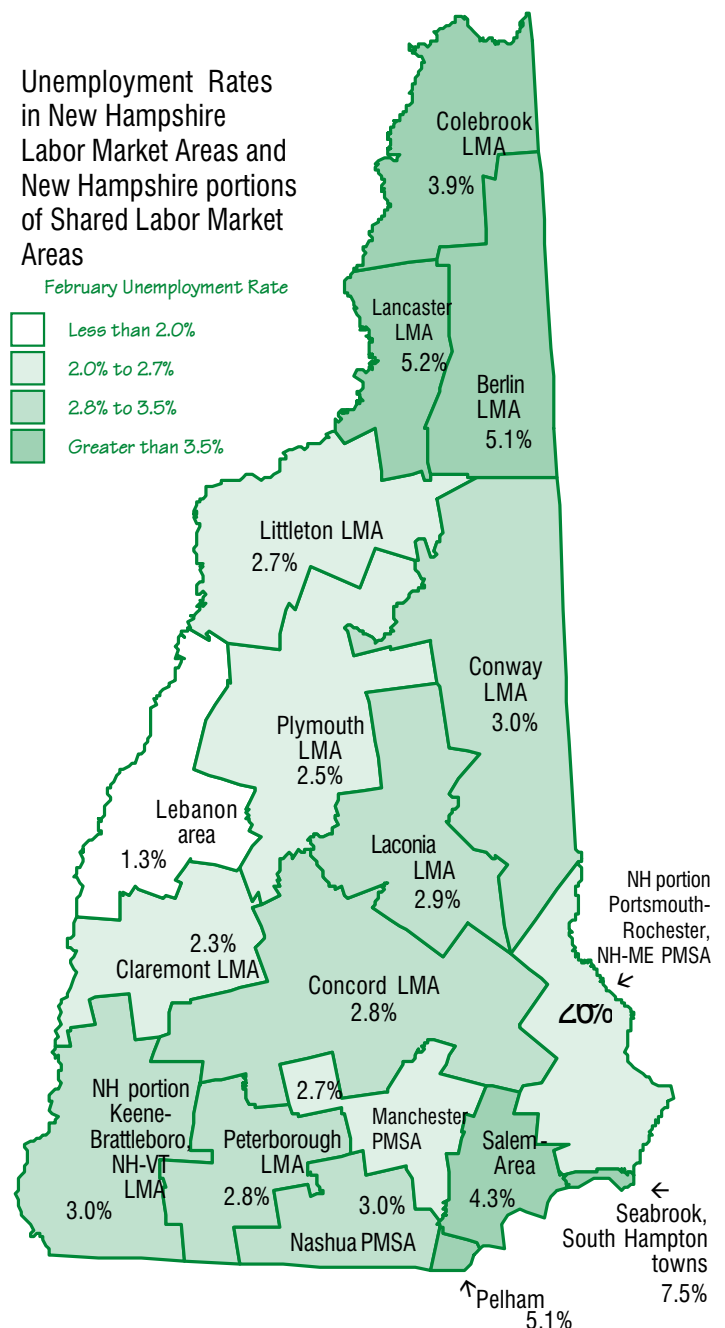
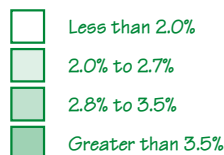
Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Not Seasonally Adjusted

By Place of Residence

Unemployment Rates
in New Hampshire
Labor Market Areas and
New Hampshire portions
of Shared Labor Market
Areas

February Unemployment Rate



Government employment increased as colleges returned from holiday breaks. Expansion in Services could not replace heavy losses in Retail trade employment.

More detailed industry information is available at our Web site

Monthly Not Seasonally Adjusted New Hampshire Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

Current Employment Statistics Employment by Industry - Number of Jobs by place of establishment	Number of Jobs			Net Change	
	Feb-00 (preliminary)	Jan-00 (revised)	Feb-99	From Previous	
				Month	Year
Total All Industries	604,700	602,500	590,000	2,200	14,700
Private Employment Total	519,700	520,600	506,700	-900	13,000
Mining	300	300	400	0	-100
Construction	23,800	24,000	21,300	-200	2,500
Manufacturing	105,500	105,700	107,200	-200	-1,700
Durable Goods Total	75,200	75,500	76,300	-300	-1,100
Nondurable Goods Total	30,300	30,200	30,900	100	-600
Transportation & Public Utilities	21,700	21,600	20,900	100	800
Trade Total	158,000	159,500	152,800	-1,500	5,200
Wholesale Trade	32,000	31,900	31,200	100	800
Retail Trade	126,000	127,600	121,600	-1,600	4,400
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	32,500	32,500	31,900	0	600
Services	177,900	177,000	172,200	900	5,700
Government Total	85,000	81,900	83,300	3,100	1,700

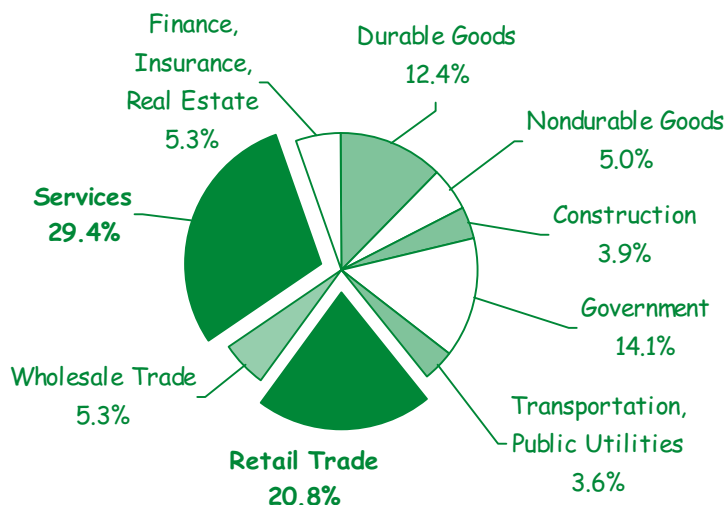
Note: Totals are rounded to hundreds

An increase in Services employment in the Manchester PMSA led the area to over-the-month job growth.

Current Employment Statistics (CES) Manchester PMSA

Employment by Industry Number of jobs by place of establishment	Number of Jobs			Change	
	Feb-00 (preliminary)	Jan-00 (revised)	Feb-99	from previous:	
				Month	Year
Total All Industries	104,300	103,800	100,800	500	3,500
Private Employment Total	93,000	92,700	89,500	300	3,500
Construction & Mining	4,600	4,800	4,300	-200	300
Manufacturing	15,100	15,100	14,500	0	600
Durable Goods	10,600	10,600	9,900	0	700
Transportation & Public Utilities	6,500	6,500	6,000	0	500
Trade Total	25,700	25,800	24,300	-100	1,400
Wholesale Trade	6,700	6,600	6,500	100	200
Retail Trade	19,000	19,200	17,800	-200	1,200
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	7,600	7,700	7,800	-100	-200
Services	33,500	32,800	32,600	700	900
Government Total	11,300	11,100	11,300	200	0

Divisional Percentages of Nonfarm Employment



Current Employment Statistics Nashua PMSA

Employment by Industry Number of jobs by place of establishment	Feb-00 (preliminary)	Jan-00 (revised)	Feb-99	from previous:	
				Month	Year
Total All Industries	94,800	95,400	95,100	-600	-300
Private Employment Total	86,100	86,700	86,300	-600	-200
Construction & Mining	3,100	3,200	2,900	-100	200
Manufacturing	27,300	27,300	27,600	0	-300
Durable Goods	21,300	21,300	21,300	0	0
Nondurable Goods	6,000	6,000	6,300	0	-300
Transportation & Public Utilities	3,300	3,200	3,100	100	200
Trade Total	24,100	24,800	24,000	-700	100
Wholesale Trade	4,700	4,700	4,600	0	100
Retail Trade	19,400	20,100	19,400	-700	0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	4,400	4,600	5,100	-200	-700
Services	23,900	23,600	23,600	300	300
Government Total	8,700	8,700	8,800	0	-100

Losses in Retail trade in the Nashua PMSA led to over-the-month decreases. Finance, insurance, and real estate pushed the over-the-year loss in total jobs.

Current Employment Statistics Portsmouth-Rochester, NH-ME PMSA

Employment by Industry Number of jobs by place of establishment	Feb-00 (preliminary)	Jan-00 (revised)	Feb-99	from previous:	
				Month	Year
Total All Industries	118,600	117,400	114,900	1,200	3,700
Private Employment Total	96,000	96,000	92,600	0	3,400
Construction & Mining	3,500	3,500	3,500	0	0
Manufacturing	18,400	18,400	18,000	0	400
Durable Goods	11,700	11,600	11,300	100	400
Nondurable Goods	6,700	6,800	6,700	-100	0
Transportation & Public Utilities	3,800	3,800	3,600	0	200
Trade Total	32,300	32,300	30,500	0	1,800
Wholesale Trade	5,900	5,900	5,700	0	200
Retail Trade	26,400	26,400	24,800	0	1,600
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	6,400	6,500	6,200	-100	200
Services	31,600	31,500	30,800	100	800
Government Total	22,600	21,400	22,300	1,200	300

Government employment increased as the private sector remained virtually unchanged in the Portsmouth-Rochester PMSA.

Average Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb-00 (prelim.)	Jan-00 (revised)	Feb-99	Feb-00 (prelim.)	Jan-00 (revised)	Feb-99	Feb-00 (prelim.)	Jan-00 (revised)	Feb-99
NEW HAMPSHIRE									
All Manufacturing	\$541.01	\$533.28	\$531.95	40.8	40.4	40.7	\$13.26	\$13.20	\$13.07
Durable Goods	543.43	528.93	531.62	41.2	40.5	40.8	13.19	13.06	13.03
Nondurable Goods	537.60	542.15	531.26	40.0	40.1	40.4	13.44	13.52	13.15
MANCHESTER PMSA									
All Manufacturing	\$557.96	\$547.02	\$544.05	39.1	38.2	40.3	\$14.27	\$14.32	\$13.50
Durable Goods	569.59	542.26	567.84	39.5	38.0	41.6	14.42	14.27	13.65
NASHUA PMSA									
All Manufacturing	\$574.90	\$552.02	\$603.35	41.3	40.5	41.1	\$13.92	\$13.63	\$14.68
Durable Goods	566.91	535.01	587.29	41.9	40.5	41.3	13.53	13.21	14.22
Nondurable Goods	601.29	606.92	657.72	39.3	40.3	40.6	15.30	15.06	16.20
PORTSMOUTH-ROCHESTER, NH-MA PMSA									
All Manufacturing	\$546.02	\$556.01	\$525.21	40.9	41.9	41.0	\$13.35	\$13.27	\$12.81
Durable Goods	603.78	612.26	561.56	42.7	43.3	41.2	14.14	14.14	13.63
Nondurable Goods	437.63	451.19	466.49	37.5	39.2	40.6	11.67	11.51	11.49

Increased weekly hours and increased hourly earnings propelled the Nashua PMSA to a \$22.88 jump in weekly earnings over January.

For Additional Information



New Hampshire Employment Security Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau:

General Information	228-4124
Research Unit	228-4173
Economist	228-4122
Covered Employment and Wages (ES-202)	228-4177
Current Employment Statistics (790)	228-4127
Local Area Unemployment Statistics	228-4175
Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS)	228-4175
Occupational Employment Statistics	228-4120
TDD Access:	Relay NH 1 800 735-2964

Internet address: www.nhes.state.nh.us/lmipage.htm

US Department of Labor Boston Regional Office:

Bureau of Labor Statistics Information (617) 565-2327

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Laconia	524-3960
Lebanon	448-6340
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Manchester	627-7841
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Portsmouth	436-3702
Salem	893-9185

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